

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT JAMES RESTON OP-ED COLUMN NEW YORK TIMES, MAY 22, 1974, HEADLINED "WHERE ARE YOU NOW HENRY?"

2. WASHINGTON, MAY 21-- IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS, WHILE SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER HAS BEEN TRYING TO ARRANGE A CEASE-FIRE BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, INDIA HAS SET OFF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, FRANCE HAS ELECTED A NEW PRESIDENT, WEST GERMANY HAS A NEW CHANCELLOR, AND SOME KIND OF POLITICAL TRANSITION OR UPHEAVAL IS GOING ON IN CHINA.

3. THESE ARE MERELY THE SYMBOLS OF NEW FORCES, NEW ALIGNMENTS AND POWERFUL NEW PERSONALITIES MOVING IN THE WORLD, AND WHILE IT IS EASY TO ADMIRE MR. KISSINGER'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE RESULT OF HIS RESTLESS DIPLOMACY
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IS THAT HE UNAVOIDABLY NEGLECTS OTHER CRITICAL DEVELOP-

MENTS IN HIS DEPARTMENT, IN THE CONGRESS, AND IN THE WORLD.

4. THE CONTROL OF NUCLEAR ARMS, THE AVOIDANCE OF WAR BETWEEN CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION, THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION, HUNGER AND SOARING RAW MATERIALS PRICES, AND THE

STABILITY AND UNITY OF NEW GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE AND THE REST OF THE FREE WORLD ALL RANK ALONG WITH PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS THE PRESIDING QUESTIONS OF WORLD POLITICS TODAY. AND IN ALL OF THEM, WASHINGTON HAS A CRITICAL ROLE TO PLAY.

5. WASHINGTON CANNOT PLAY THAT ROLE, HOWEVER, UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PRESIDENT IS DETERMINED TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE IS RUNNING THE GOVERNMENT, BUT OBVIOUSLY HE IS TRYING TO SAVE HIS POLITICAL LIFE. FOR THE TIME BEING, JUDGE SIRICA IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN INDIRA GANDHI IN INDIA, VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING IN FRANCE, CHANCELLOR HELMUT SCHMIDT IN BONN, OR THE POLITICAL STRUGGLES IN ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES.

6. MEANWHILE, THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT HERE DEPENDS ON MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND THE CIVIL SERVICE. AND THE REORGANIZATION AND REVIVAL OF CONFIDENCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEPENDS ON MR. KISSINGER, WHO TOOK OVER THERE LAST SEPT. 22.

7. SINCE THEN, HE HAS BEEN OUT OF THE COUNTRY THREE DAYS IN OCTOBER, ELEVEN IN NOVEMBER, FOURTEEN IN DECEMBER, TEN IN JANUARY, FOURTEEN IN FEBRUARY, FIVE IN MARCH AND FORGETTING TIME OUT FOR A HONEYMOON IN MEXICO, HE HAS BEEN AWAY SINCE LAST APRIL AND ALL OF MAY, AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO SPEND MOST OF JUNE IN EUROPE AND MOSCOW, PREPARING FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION.

8. THIS IS THE LIFE OF A ROVING PRESIDENTIAL ENVOY RATHER THAN OF A SECRETARY OF STATE, MR. KISSINGER MAKES JOHN FOSTER DULLES, OUR LAST STATE DEPARTMENT WANDERER, LOOK LIKE A STICK-IN-THE-MUD. AND IT IS A PRACTICAL PROBLEM
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FOR THREE REASONS.

9. MR. KISSINGER HASN'T HAD TIME TO ORGANIZE THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO DEAL WITH ALL THESE CRITICAL WORLDWIDE DEVELOPMENTS WHILE HE'S AWAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST; HE DELEGATES AUTHORITY GRUDGINGLY TO ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE RUSH; AND HE'S NOT AVAILABLE TO TESTIFY IN CONGRESS ON VITAL LEGISLATION SUCH AS DEFENSE FUNDS AND FOREIGN AID.

10. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT HE'S OUT OF TOUCH ON HIS SHUTTLE PLANE BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND TEL AVIV. THE ART OF COMMUNICATION HAS ADVANCED SINCE MR. DULLES WAS FLYING AROUND THE WORLD. HE GETS BETWEEN FIVE AND TEN MESSAGES FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT EVERY DAY--AND BETWEEN FIFTEEN AND TWENTY FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS--ASKING WHAT

SHOULD WE SAY ABOUT THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, OR HOW SHOULD WE REACT TO THE CHANGE OF GOVERNMENTS IN PORTUGAL, FRANCE AND GERMANY?

11. IT LEAVES LITTLE TIME FOR REFLECTION AND DEFINITION ON THE REALLY MAJOR QUESTIONS OF NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL IN MOSCOW NEXT MONTH; IT IS CERTAINLY NOT THE CALM, THOUGHTFUL, ORDERLY PROCESS OF POLICY-MAKING HE INSISTED HE WOULD BRING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED. THE OCTOBER WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST BLEW HIM OFF COURSE.

12. HE WON THE TRUST OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND KING FAISAL AND MRS. MEIER AND PUT HIS WHOLE MIND TO GETTING A CEASE-FIRE IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD, BUT MEANWHILE OTHER FIRES ARE LIGHTED.

13. THE STRENGTH OF THE KISSINGER SYSTEM IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ITS WEAKNESS ELSEWHERE. WHERE HE CONCENTRATES--WHETHER ON CHOU EN-LAI IN CHINA, ON BREZHNEV IN THE SOVIET UNION, ON SADAT OR FAISAL, OR PRESIDENT HAFEZ AL-ASSAD OF SYRIA, OR THE POLITICAL LEADERS HERE ON CAPITOL HILL--HE HAS A REMARKABLE GIFT OF PERSUASION.

14. BUT STRONG AS HE IS, PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY, HE CANNOT

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NOT DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH ALL THIS BY HIMSELF, WITHOUT ORGANIZING HIS DEPARTMENT, UNLESS HE CAN INVENT THE 48-HOUR DAY. THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, HE IS TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING: SET POLICY, ADVISE THE PRESIDENT AS HEAD OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL IN THE WHITE HOUSE, ORGANIZE AND PRESIDE OVER THE STATE DEPARTMENT, MEDIATE THE STRUGGLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, INFORM THE PRESS IN HIS OWN NAME OR AS A "SENIOR OFFICIAL," BE LOYAL TO MR. NIXON ON WATERGATE WITHOUT BEING DISLOYAL TO SELF;

15; THIS IS QUITE AN ASSIGNMENT, BUT FROM HERE, IT LOOKS A LITTLE PRESUMPTUOUS, IF NOT A LITTLE GOOFY, AND AT SOME POINT HE IS PROBABLY GOING TO HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER HE IS A SECRETARY OF STATE OR A DIPLOMAT-NEGOTIATOR-SPOKESMAN-SCHOLAR-PHILOSOPHER, AND POLITICIAN-APOLOGIST ON CAPITOL

HILL.

16. HE CAN'T GO ON DOING ALL THESE THINGS TOGETHER. MAY-
BE HIS NEW WIFE WILL HAVE TO TELL HIM. SOMEBODY IS GOING
TO HAVE TO GET HIM OFF THAT MERRY-GO-ROUND AND BRING HIM
HOME TO DEAL WITH THE WORLD AS SECRETARY OF STATE
(END TEXT) RUSH

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